



BookTrust

Hon. Michael Kubayanda
Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Re: Docket number: MC2021-78

April 21, 2021

Dear Honorable Kubayanda and Postal Regulatory Commission,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the 30,000 students and their families, and the 1,858 teachers we serve in Title 1 schools across the United States in reference to the possible proposed changes for Bound Printed Matter. Book Trust is an early literacy nonprofit organization that empowers children to discover the joy and power of reading to create limitless possibilities. Last year, Book Trust, with our partner Scholastic Book Clubs, provided more than 765,000 books to low-income students across the country. We have serious concerns that the proposed changes for Bound Printed Matter would significantly raise postage costs on books and catalogs, negatively impacting our ability to provide the books that inspire children's passion for reading and building literacy skills.

Title 1 students in the Book Trust program utilize Scholastic catalogs to choose one to three books every month of the school year, building a home library of up to 25 books per year at no expense to them. Research shows that access to books is the single most significant barrier to reading. In low-income areas in the United States, there is just one book for every 300 children, compared to middle-income families who, on average, have 13 books for every child. This is a significant factor in the reading gap between children from low-income and middle-income families. Book Trust works to close this gap by providing access to books to thousands of children who may not otherwise have access to them.

As a nonprofit our ability to serve students across the country, from Hawaii to New York, is highly dependent on cost. Increases in the price of Bound Printed Matter could jeopardize our ability to continue support for our student's literacy journeys. The Postal Service network plays a critical role in delivering affordable educational materials to schools, especially via Bound Printed Matter catalogs and books. An increase in price to Bound Printed Matter will affect our most vulnerable students at Title I schools.

For the thousands of students who receive Scholastic catalogs to choose books, and for the teachers and families who help them develop literacy skills they'll use for a lifetime, I urge you to reject these proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Kellie O'Keefe
President & CEO

Cc:

Hon. Ron A. Bloom
Hon. Carolyn Maloney
Hon. Gary C. Peters

DISCOVER THE JOY
AND POWER OF READING

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